

05008

ERA 5: CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION (1850-1877)

ERA 6: THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDUSTRIAL

UNITED STATES (1870-1900)

THEMES: AMERICAN DIVERSITY, AMERICAN
IDENTITY, CULTURE

Who Was Wyatt Earp?

Guiding Questions

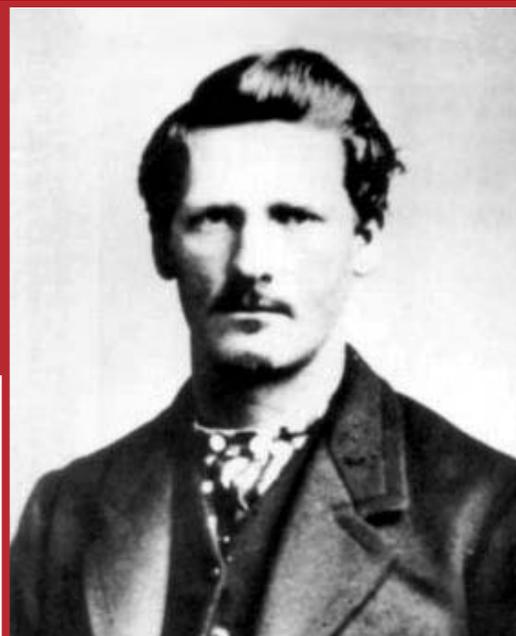
What were the threats to law and order in The West?

How was law established and maintained as The West was settled?

What happened at the O.K. Corral?

What is frontier justice and what was its purpose?

What difficulties do historians face when researching the past?



Wyatt Earp at about age 19.

Question Focus Examples for Task 24

Iconic figures in history are often more legend than truth.

Teacher-to-Teacher

Barra's article could be used to introduce the settling of The West after the Civil War. The story of Wyatt Earp and the Gunfight at O.K. Corral is the stuff of legends and should hold the interest of students today just like it has for over 100 years. It's important to note just how multicultural the settling of the West was; in the case of the article one focus is on the role of Jewish Americans. The primary documents cover in detail the actual gunfight. The transcripts are provided for each witness at the inquiry. Also, there are a number of points of view in the official inquiry into the deaths at the Ok Corral. It could be a great exercise to divide the students into groups to work together to understand each witness's story and then try to put the puzzle of the actual event together in a discussion or formal inquiry/hearing. Students should also be prompted to understand the difficulties of historians in researching events that happened long ago.

Contents

- ★ **Who Was Wyatt Earp?** ARTICLE
- ★ **OK Corral inquest transcript found in Arizona jailhouse store room** DOCUMENT
- ★ **Cochise County Case no. 48. Coroner's transmittal page to the Clerk of the District Court Cochise County** DOCUMENT
- ★ **List of Coroner's Jurors, Testimony of John H. Behan and clerk's cover and file sheet** DOCUMENT
- ★ **Behan Transcript in PDF format** DOCUMENT
- ★ **1886 fire insurance map of Tombstone, Ariz.,** IMAGE
- ★ **Sign near Tombstone, Arizona. Boot Hill graveyard** DOCUMENT
- ★ **The Law of the West: Dodge City [Kans.] Peace Commissioners** IMAGE
- ★ **Jewish Pioneers, A new life in the old west** DOCUMENT
- ★ **Josephine and Wyatt Earp** DOCUMENT
- ★ **Cowboys off the Trail** IMAGE

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Recommended Instructional Tasks

- Task 1**
Wrestle with an Argument: Close Reading of an Argumentative Text
- Task 2**
One Sentence Summaries
- Task 3**
Unpack the Points
- Task 7**
Close Reading: Focus Question
- Task 8**
Analyze and Compare Author Purpose
- Task 10**
Question the Author
- Task 22**
Structured Academic Controversy
- Task 23**
Identifying Claim and Evidence
- Task 24**
QFT (Question Focus Technique)
- Task 25**
Document Sourcing